



# OPD/NCOPD

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A photograph showing several people in full-body blue protective suits and masks, likely veterinarians or health workers, working with chickens in an outdoor farm setting. One person is crouched down, possibly examining a chicken. The background shows a wooden fence and some greenery.

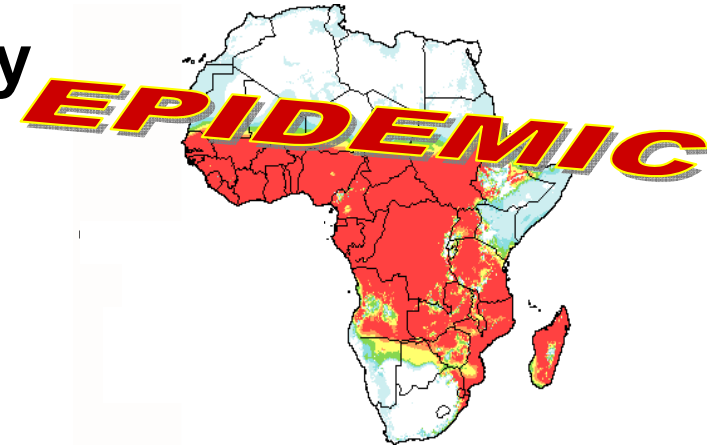
**USAG Benelux**  
**Avian Influenza Briefing**  
**24 February 2006**



# Epidemic vs. Pandemic

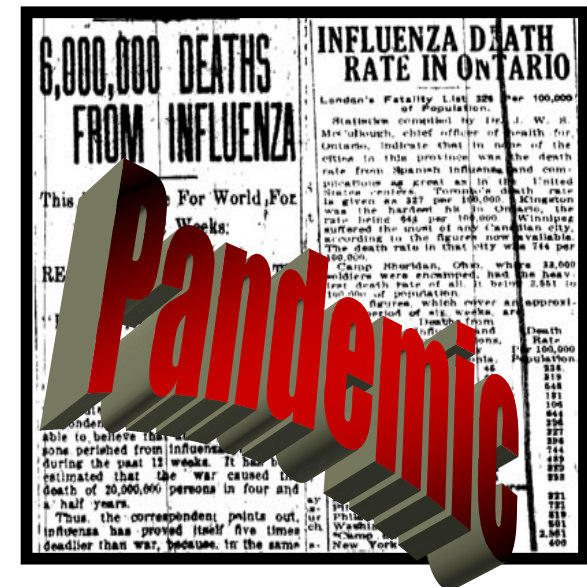
**According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary**

**(Epidemic):** Affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, community, or region at the same time



**According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary**

**(Pandemic):** Occurring over a wide geographic area and affecting an exceptionally high proportion of the population.





# 1918-1919 Influenza

The “Spanish flu”, 1918-1919. First identified early March 1918 in US troops training at Camp Funston, Kansas, by October 1918 it had spread to become a world-wide pandemic on all continents.

Unusually deadly and virulent, it ended nearly as quickly as it began, vanishing completely within 18 months. In six months, 25 million were dead; some estimates put the total of those killed worldwide at over twice that number.



An U.S. Army hospital at Camp Funston, Kansas, is filled with soldiers suffering from the influenza epidemic near the end of World War I.

An estimated 17 million died in India, 500,000 in the United States and 200,000 in the UK.



# *What is “Bird Flu”?*

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- Also known as Avian Influenza (AI)
- A viral illness highly contagious in birds
- Some strains can cause severe illness/death in domestic birds (i.e., chickens, ducks, etc.)
- May be spread by certain migratory birds
- Human infections have occurred--some were fatal
- Human cases so far were among people in close contact with infected birds
- Not communicable human-to-human yet



# *Why Worry about Bird Flu?*

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- Though infrequent, very serious infection for humans
- Human death rate currently around 45%
- Virus may change to allow easier human-to-human spread, more like seasonal flu
  - This would allow rapid, possibly global, spread of disease
  - Can't predict when this will happen
- No human natural immunity to bird flu virus



# *How is AI spread?*

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- Direct contact with infected poultry (i.e., chickens, turkeys, ducks, etc.)
  - Poultry farms in infected areas
  - Live animal markets in infected areas
  - Uncooked poultry
  - Blood from birds
  - Feces from birds
  - Other fluids from birds
- Eating raw or uncooked, infected poultry or their eggs
  - Thoroughly cooking poultry/eggs is best prevention
- No sustained human to human transmission yet





# *Symptoms of AI in Humans*

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- Typical flu-like symptoms:
  - Fever ( $>100.4$ )
  - Headache
  - Cough
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Muscle aches
- Additional AI symptoms:
  - Eye infections
  - Pneumonia
  - Diarrhea and Gastrointestinal problems
  - Can progress to severe pneumonia



# *Prevent spreading the flu*

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- Maintain a healthy lifestyle
  - Exercise, rest, and eating balanced meals maintains body's ability to fight infection
- Avoid smoking and second hand smoke
  - Smokers have higher hospitalization and death rates from flu
- Avoid closeness to those with respiratory illnesses
  - Limiting exposure decreases your chances of becoming ill
- Avoid touching your mouth and nose
  - Reduces chance of infecting yourself with viral particles on your hands





# *Prevent spreading the flu*

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- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough/sneeze
  - Use upper sleeve, not your hand, if tissue is not available
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or waterless hand cleaners
  - Especially after you cough or sneeze
- If you feel sick, stay at home
  - Don't share your illness
  - Contact your doctor for advice and assistance
- Wear a mask if told to do so
- Get the seasonal flu shot
- Once available, and when advised to do so, get an avian flu shot



# *Prepare Family*

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- Prepare your family as you would for natural disasters
- Plan for worst-case scenarios such as several family members becoming ill
- Discuss and make alternate plans, including:
  - **Plan family and child care**
  - **Plan for pet care**
  - **Plan for additional food and water storage**
  - **Plan for impact of utility outages (i.e., power, water, etc.)**
  - **Assemble first aid kits and medications**
  - **Limit trips to public areas to minimize exposure**
  - **Designate emergency meeting places and points of contact for family members if they become separated**
  - **Ensure routine immunizations are current**
  - **List and share all important contact phone numbers**
  - **Coordinate with your service's family support groups for help as needed**



# Avian Flu Update

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## World Health Organization statistics as of 21 February 2006

- Rapid geographical spread of the virus; 3 continents.
- The occurrence of the disease in India, reported on 18 February, is part of a recent pattern of rapid geographical spread of the virus in wild and domestic birds. India is one of 13 new countries that have reported their first cases of H5N1 infection in birds since the beginning of February. (The 13 countries, listed in order of reporting, are Iraq, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Iran, Austria, Germany, Egypt, India and France.)
- On 20 February, Malaysia reported a fresh outbreak in poultry after having been considered free of the disease for more than a year.
- The situation in these recently affected countries varies greatly. Most European countries with good veterinary surveillance have detected the virus in a small number of wild birds only, with no evidence to date of spread to domestic birds.



# Where We're At

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- EUCOM is in the final stage of the FUNCPLAN
- USAREUR G3 fully engaged, its plan to be published in near future
- ERMIC/OCSURG published OPOD and held coordination meetings with all clinic and MTF Commanders/Key leader two days ago. Will be conducting a Tabletop exercise mid March
- Public Health Emergency Officers (PHEOs) have been identified and will be working with installation commanders
- USAREUR G3, IMA-E, ERMIC drafting strawman for the Installation Emergency Response Plan
- USAG Benelux is fully engaged, its plan to be published in near future to include a Avian Influenza TTX in Mar 06.



# USAG Chievres Dead Bird Instructions

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## ***What to do if you find a dead bird, chicken, or group of dead birds/chickens?***

- ▶ **Do not touch dead birds or chickens.** If you have to touch the bird(s) or chicken for some reason wear gloves and mask. Do not forget to wash your hands immediately with soap and water before touching any part of your body.
- ▶ If the dead bird(s)/chicken(s) is/ are found in **SHAPE AND** the number of dead birds are less than five, call the Fire Department directly at **DSN: 423-4017 Civilian: 065-444017.**
- ▶ If the dead bird(s) is / are found in **Chievres**, call the MP at **DSN: 361-5301 Civilian: 068-275301.**
- ▶ **If you live outside SHAPE or Chievres, call: 065-40-6211 ONLY** if you see a dead swan or five birds or more in one location.
- ▶ If there are more than five dead birds in one location, or one dead swan, call **Preventive Medicine at DSN: 423-5823/5044/5952 Civilian: 065-445823/5044/5952. Mobile: 047-6760327.**
- ▶ **Do not touch anything!**



# USAG Brussels Dead Bird Instructions

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## ***Belgian Instructions for USAG Brussels:***

- ▶ **Do not touch dead birds or chickens.** If you have to touch the birds or chickens for some reason wear gloves and mask. Do not forget to wash your hands immediately with soap and water before touching any part of your body
- ▶ Call the toll-free number **0800-99-777** under the following conditions:
- ▶ All birds are found in one location, at the same time, of the same or similar family/species and in the following quantities:
  - ▶ One or more swans
  - ▶ 20 or more gulls, seagulls or sparrows
  - ▶ Five or more other species (ducks, geese, etc.)
- ▶ **Do not touch anything!**
- ▶ For more information: [www.influenza.be](http://www.influenza.be)



# USAG Schinnen Dead Bird Instructions

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## ***Dutch Instructions for USAG Schinnen:***

- ▶ **Do not touch dead birds or chickens**
- ▶ Call the local number **045-546-6230** under the following conditions:
- ▶ Suspicious cases: all birds are found in one location, at the same time, of the same or similar family/species and in the following quantities:
  - ▶ One or more Swans or Blue Herons
  - ▶ Five or more Ducks or Geese
  - ▶ 20 or more other species (Gulls, Seagulls, Sparrows, etc.)
- ▶ Non-suspicious cases: single or fewer birds than defined above
- ▶ **Do not touch anything for suspicious birds; wear gloves to dispose of birds not meeting the suspicious criteria above. When in doubt, call 045-546-6230**
- ▶ For more information: [www.vogelgriep.nl](http://www.vogelgriep.nl)